

North Ferrisburgh N. 7th Nov. 9th 1844.

My Dear Sister, Most welcome letter reached me on the 3rd inst a day or two later than it would had it been directed to our P.O. But it came, and I will try to acknowledge its receipt as speedily as may be. The accounts of thy journey was very interesting and gratifying to all of us, and we were truly glad that it was through health so agreeable to thee. For one I am well pleased with the accomplishment of this so long desired object, and I sincerely wish that nothing may mar thy enjoyment of this social sojourn with thy kindred.

Do not be anxious about us, - we are getting along quite comfortably, as such, - for aught I know as we can do: I miss thee very much in many ways, but still do make out to help the machinery going, - the work drawn gives full proof of thy absence, yet we are comfortable, - thy health is much better than it was last summer, so there is one favor thou see: I have had a hard headache only twice since thou left, and been confined to my room only one day. Ann has been to Ferrisburgh nearly two weeks, and been confined to my room only one day. Ann is at brother Ws. cousin E. is still there, and I know not when she will return. Susan is gone to Williston, and I expect will not return as she has been very unwell, and has engaged to spin to do. We have Sarah Freeman, to help us, Mary Ann Ferry, washes, irons and bakes, she will be here all the time after her job of house-cleaning are done. Sarah is a quiet, good girl, and does nicely, - her mother is gone to Whitehall: - Sarah and Clarissa went too, but returned the same week. Polly Brown is gone from Ferrisburgh, and there is another young woman after the case, so thou must think of us as doing pretty well: - our family is quite small, and we have less company than usual: the house has been new shingled, also the porches and sleepers, so the carpenters have been with us, thou wilt discover.

Since thou left from Ferrisburgh Griffed has had a severe trial in the death of her nephew Henry: - he and another young man were drowned while bathing in the creek at Bergen me: His parents were both quite unwell, Fanny unable to attend the funeral: His brother William is very feeble, is thought by many, in a confirmed decline: - he and his wife are at F. Barber's, have been there for some time. My intelligence of our neighbors is rather scanty with it long, I cannot tell thee just how she is, but her friends think she is failing very fast. Her sister Edith has been with her - I understand - some time, whether poor, poor Abby has been here or not, is more than I know. Doctor Ellis has been called to Mary, and Lilli Coe's tale that she heard they had carried her through a course of Calomel. Oh! what an error! a grievous one. But their prejudices I suppose are such that the Thompsonian course would seem like a murder, if not suicide, to them. The rest of our acquaintances, as far as I know are in usual health. The weather has been rather cool most of the time since thou left us, with frequent rains: - we have had a few warm days, and just now rain would be quite grateful: the crop of hay will be light, it is thought, yet the potatoes are very luxuriant: these is quite low, but we must be satisfied, I suppose, and hope on, hope on. "We have sent cheese away twice, some two a day: do not smile, dear sister, to this readily, I wish to tell thee about all the things, and the entire goes down with little or no

there will be precious little sentiment in this. I am thinking, for I have so many things to tell thee; plain matters of fact. Oh! before I forget it, thou must be told that we have had two of the fifteen slaves who fled from bondage in a lobster boat, and were pursued by an American vessel of war. Noble work! They have gone on to Canada, for they were afraid to remain any where within our glorious republic, lest the chains of servitude should again bind soul and limb: poor slaves! they left us behind, and deeply did they appear to feel the separation; they felt it so heavily that one of them said he would not have come away, had he not supposed he could easily effect the escape of his wife also, when he was once away. Both seemed very anxious, as though grief sat heavy on their hearts - they hurried with only one sight - were very anxious to journey on to Britain's domain. Yesterday afternoon, Rowland, Amos, Ebenezer A. and Rowland C. went to Bezechanee and heard J. Pierpont on the third party question; - in the evening he lectured upon Temperance, and it was very nearly eleven o'clock when they returned home. Sent up for them till half-past ten, when George was one to attend, and he and G. Reynolds remained up. To-day the two Rowlands are gone to Bristol, will probably meet with J. Pierpont again, though that is not the reason of their going; he is to remain in the state for a while longer, to advocate the third party in favor. Bro. Holmes was here, a short time since, to see the second very young and uninteresting.

We have had a visit from Maria Murray too, she was disappointed in not seeing thee, expects to go into J. D. W.'s community, and will probably never visit us again; - she seemed cheerful as could be expected, has had many trials since leaving W. I felt much sympathy for her. Good Spear's father and mother have made us a visit, expected to see thee, - were very pleasant, talked of community, but have little confidence in J. D. W. C. Ovis has written home, and by her account it appears that we two distinct parties in the community there, - she is in opposition to John C. I fear there is much that will not harmonize there, and that in long time will be an open rupture among them. To-day I meant to bid thee farewell, hope to finish this to-morrow.

To-morrow came, but with it no leisure for writing to thee, I should have had, but for an unusual heavy thunder storm, which lasted a long time and would not admit of my sitting down to compose with any desert ease: the wind almost proved down, it fell so suddenly that every room in the house needed attention, it kept us busy for some time after the wind abated, - for it did not stop till evening and it rained again in the night, and most of to-day the wind has been falling. I fear the stream will be increased dangerously, - we hear to-day, that an entire stage undertook last night to cross a stream in Peckham, the bridge was gone, and one female passenger and three horses were lost, it may not be true, but we fear it is. We think the lightning must have struck pretty near us, yesterday several times, it was very vivid and the thunder exceedingly loud, - I do not now recollect where we have had so terrific a shower. We in the midst of such a season can't be exempt of solemnity by stealing over the soul, I know not, nor do I care to know, for to me it would be either an evidence of hardness of heart, - or strong arguments from the source of true happiness.

The Gordon family are to leave Middlebury, and settle in Florida, - how strange that will seem to us not to go, this we will not see them as a household: Matthew, Agnes, and Phelise James remain, but they will not be together, - and the social bond which used to greet us so cordially will be there more - perhaps - fewer: with this reflection come many sad thoughts - many recollections of heart-felt enjoyment shared with this warm-hearted - though sectarian group, and the dead eye, the absence to certain assurance, that such seasons will never more be known by us, awakens deep and painful sensations: but this it is, - have many wishes of the social chain are broken: some by one cause, and some by another. I have written but little but it is surely dark, and we long that we must be laid aside. If it had not rained and I had been well enough which by the way - I am not, - I was intending to go after meeting to-day up to cousin N. Holmes' stay all night, and visit the Whalley's family: art thou astonished dear sister? I am quite sure, Phelise, - at least the family think so. And third other visit coming up before my view too, as thou must remember too much of thy sister because quite a god-about? A great change I admit, and not a very probable one. I do so love the quiet of home that the very thought of visiting occasions a shivering feeling. But I must say farewell for to-night.

12th Agnes Paine seated, dear sister, in the east room, and hope to finish my communicating with
thee, for I wish to dispatch this as soon as practicable, promising well that thou wilt feel very anxious to
hear from me. Was not at liberty to run my thoughts much presents for communication, but by the time
I have time to write, all seems to have left me, and I wait for the return of something interesting: but
wilt I may. - so I will send thee such as I have, poor though it be.

Louisa Davis has just returned from Peru, told us Rachel Barker attended Meetings twice, and
strange, very strange to tell, preached only once, and then only a few words, the result of an incident
in some friend's journey, - the purport of it was that the friend stopped at a house, but from his in-
pressions was convinced that this Seal was not in that place, and he went to travel on: this he told so
doubt with her, that she felt it a duty to have it with them, and they must use it as they chose:

For Rachel, she will find some hard things administered to her, if she visits Peru, much more, I fear
for seeing me disappointed with her, and Pauline these elders has pretty severely, Louisa says, R.
has been crossed quite too much for her advancement in the truth, in my opinion: her vision has been
dimmed by flattery and the following of the multitude. Oh! how needful for each of us to look well to our
own steps, and not have an eye to the movements of others: our own pathfulness can alone bring peace, and
remove all impurity from our spirits: As a Society we have erred, I think, in having our eye upon others and
feeling that the eye of others were upon us, when this conscientiousness that the Eye of Omniscience beheld
and judges our acts and actions, should alone have influenced us in our conduct. I often desire entire
liberation from this thralldom of spirits, - to become wholly free!

"We hear that D. Golden, D. and J.
Wilton are to visit our Meetings this summer, cannot say how correct this is, - do not count the company
of D. and Jacob, at all: think they could well be spared.

By a sound about connection of thought up the
reminds me to tell thee, that Benjamin Field has purchased A. Davis's farm, and is to take up the
residence there this autumn: Solstice A. will remove I know not; I regret their being obliged to leave such
a comfortable home: B. pays three thousand dollars for the farm, but this will not pay all A. debts.

Stephen Rice is still living, suffers much and is at times very impatient, which is quite a trial to his rela-
tives: others at Peru are generally well: Oliver Rice second has sustained a severe trial, in the sud-
den death of his wife, about four weeks ago, - she was expecting to be confined ere long, has always at such
times had attacks, approaching very nearly to apoplexy, was taken on seventh day evening and died
the second day evening; spoke only once after the attack. But I must draw to a close for A. is waiting for
this; - we have not heard from Sheldah, cannot account for her silence. "We are all as well as usual
or visit a day or two. On second thoughts, I will not send it to day, for it can only travel to-morrow or its end
will be by - to-morrow so I shall after all, fill this sheet. "We have not heard from B. and Cynthia in a long time
but I have not yet replied to their last; - indeed I have very little leisure for writing to any one now, write to
Lizzy, who has removed back to Brooklyn; - he says she looks no longer as though her heart was indeed broken, ^{though she} seems
cheerful and sweet, but it was evident that a cancer was at the root of her woes, that her happiness was
blighted: he did not see Edward, but heard that he is doing poorly: very low salary too, which I fear will
scarcely support his family. Oh! how much there is to make the heart sad, - if not for ourselves for others.

Common and hers are all well and doing well as to this outward, and truly do I wish for them the expansion
of spiritual wealth, - a treasure that cannot fail in time of need. As this is not to depart incontinently,
I shall lay it aside again, for my reasons, for this such is not done: so farewell for to day.

14th As I have an opportunity will offer for the conveyance of this to the Office, get down to finish it
see me all tolerably well this morning, though my back aches badly, so that I think it will be better for me to
re-arrange at home: father intends going to Meeting, I went with him last First day. It seems quite
pleasant of late, though not very comradely with me, - for this there is probably a cause, - soon after thy depar-
ture, Mary appeared very agreeable and familiar, quite disposed to make her way into my arms if practicable,
but they were folded up and her freedom received with bare civility, - scarcely, though indeed, for how could I

have any thing but indifference towards one in whom I have no confidence, and for whom I have no regard? - I may say not the least respects? She found no success according to, and has ceased her efforts, quite a relief, I am sure. She and Peter are "familiar friends", have been to W. Clark and brother N's together: rather an imposition upon the visitors in my opinion. Mother is very sweet, her child like cussing and picking of flowers continues, in sunshine and in shower, - her health rather better than when she left home. Barbara Webb was here yesterday, says Mary is better, they feel quite encouraged about her. I have not seen E. Wheeler since she left, - believe she is as well as usual. Thomas and Rachel Whalley have enquired after this very kindly several times.

I get sorry that this has been so long delayed for I am sure how anxious they must feel on our account, but they must know too that my time is pretty fully occupied, when able to do any thing;

John and Fanny Miles took supper with us yesterday afternoon, we had quite a pleasant visit from their little Ellen years finely, begins to walk, grows more like the Miles family in countenance.

Our dear Rachel had not an unalloyed cup of enjoyment, while in N. Y. though she had more of satisfaction than might have been anticipated by some of us. Amabilia was with her some: They went to Madison Day at first, but were so well treated, that they were glad to find a comfortable, pleasant home, at the widow's & Borars; George's step-mother, George was very attentive to them; - Liz is married there are several younger daughters at home; all were kind and agreeable, and made them welcome.

1841
 July 15
 At Genesburg N.Y.
 Dear Mrs. C.
 I have the pleasure to inform you that I have this day received your kind letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to hear that you are all well. I have not time to write you more at present, but will return to America, and spend the remainder of their days very quietly. I should think Paul and went on to New York for G. M. to see to well Joseph's business, and about other things, and spent a week with cousin Platt's family, - he was from home nearly four weeks. I have said you a great deal of love to Aunt Ann from me. We have heard nothing from our dear Fanny since she left us, I have wrote to her some weeks since: hope one of us will receive her answer ere long. I am glad you is much in my thoughts, - for she has drunk deeply of sorrow's cup. I have nothing from E. Com-
 fort, and do not know what to think of it. Please give our love to thy brother John and family, also to Robert all unite in much love to thee. Do write as frequently as is convenient, though do not care thyself when

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